PeerWise Instructor User Guide

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CETL
CENTRE FOR ENHANCED TEACHING & LEARNING
Contact: cetl@unb.ca

What's Inside

1 Introducing PeerWise 1

2 Access to PeerWise 1

3 Step-by-Step Example 1

1A. Login to the UNB PeerWise site 1

2A. Create a course. 2

3A. Upload student identifiers. 3

4A. Provide your students with instructions for accessing your PeerWise course. 4

5A. Customize the question editing pane. 5

6A. Create a Question Tag. 5

7A. Provide an instructor with administrator access to your course. 6

8A. Your course is setup. 7

9A. Moderate your course. 7

4 Quick Tips 8

This document complements 6 other components available through the Instructional Technology Lab at UNB. They include: (1) a simple online Demo of PeerWise in use from a student perspective and (2) a guide for using the demo (3) a checklist for integrating PeerWise into your course (4) instructions for formulating quality questions (5) suggestions for assessment and frequency of use (6) rationale for using PeerWise.

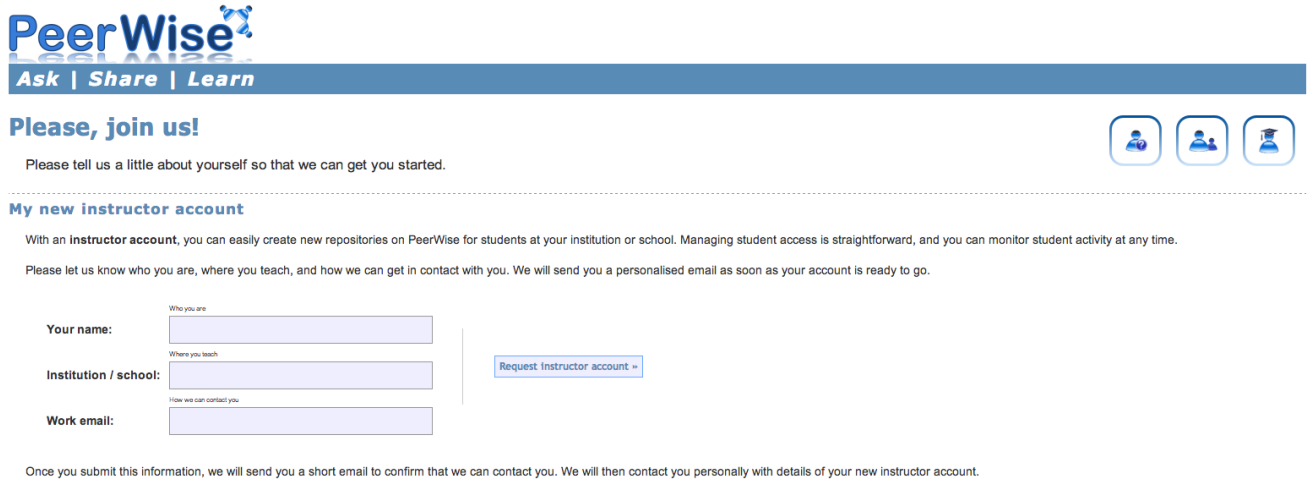
1 INTRODUCING PEERWISE

PeerWise is a free web-based, multiple choice question repository, where students develop questions pertaining to course content. Students create questions with up to 5 plausible answers and provide explanations for the correct answer. The questions can include text, equations, graphs, chemical formulae and images. Students also answer questions submitted by others. Once they have done so, they see which answer option is listed as correct, the distribution of the responses contributed to date and an explanation of the answer. Additionally, students can request help from the author of a question, rate the question for difficulty and quality, and comment on the question. Only the instructor can see the name of the author of questions or comments to allow the option of intervening if anything inappropriate is posted. The instructor does not edit, correct or comment on the questions.

2 ACCESS TO PEERWISE

Instructors

PeerWise is free to both instructors and students. The first time you use PeerWise you must create an instructor account: http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/join/

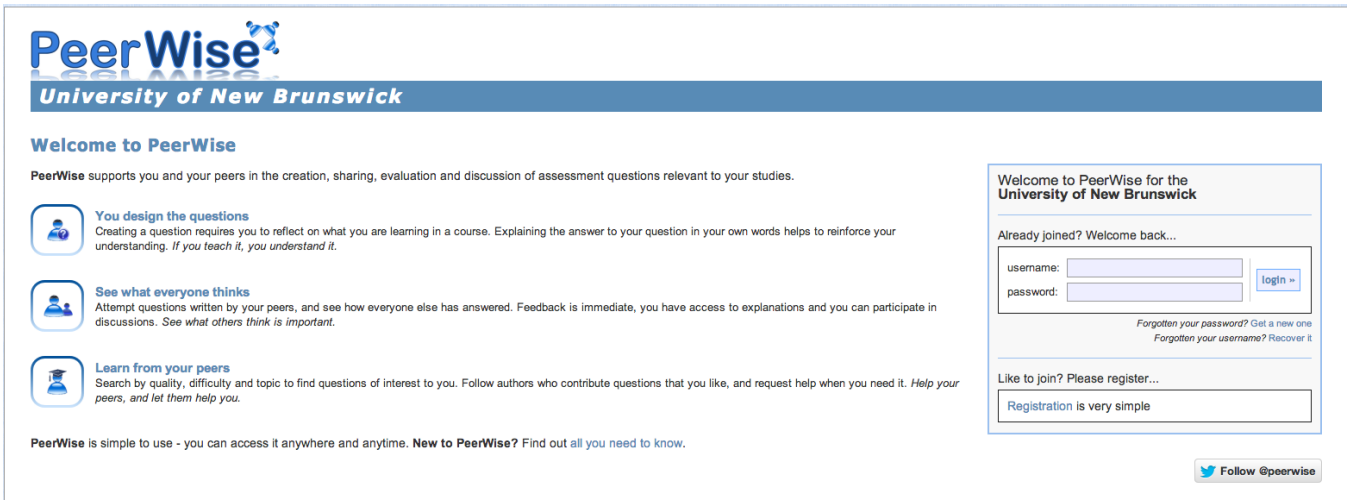

PeerWise
Ask | Share | Learn
Please, join us!
Please tell us a little about yourself so that we can get you started.
My new instructor account
With an instructor account, you can easily create new repositories on PeerWise for students at your institution or school. Managing student access is straightforward, and you can monitor student activity at any time.
Please let us know who you are, where you teach, and how we can get in contact with you. We will send you a personalised email as soon as your account is ready to go.
Who you are
Your name:
Where you teach
Institution / school:
How we can contact you
Work email:
Request instructor account »
Once you submit this information, we will send you a short email to confirm that we can contact you. We will then contact you personally with details of your new instructor account.

Enter your name and UNB email, and "University of New Brunswick" as the institution name. Press Request Instructor Account. You will be emailed a verification code, which you can copy and paste onto the next screen.

Your account will be created and details will be emailed to you within 1-2 days.

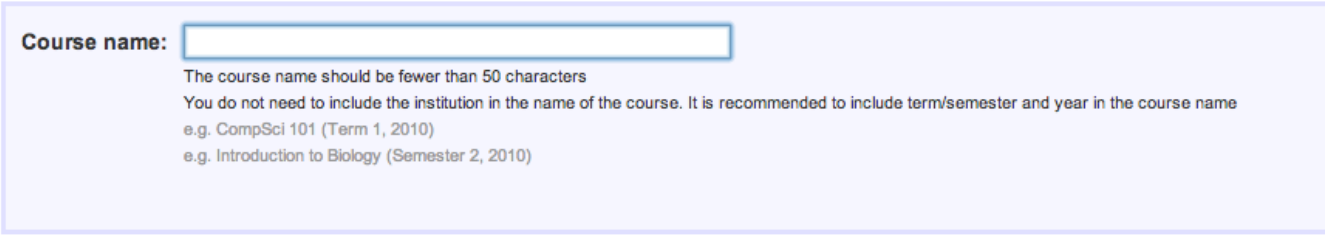
3 STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE

1A. Login to the UNB PeerWise site at: http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?unb_ca. Use the username and password provided in the email from PeerWise (after you register it takes about 1-2 days to receive the email).

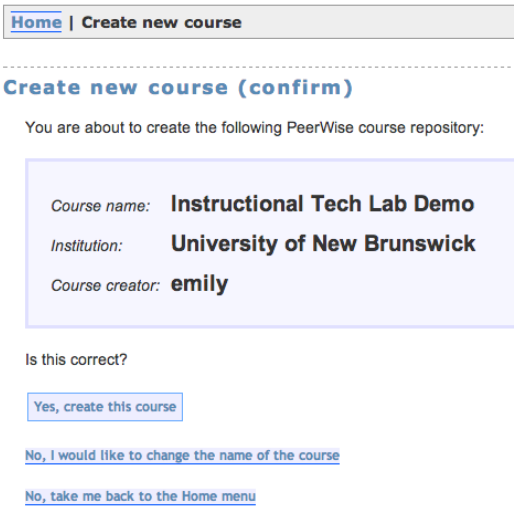

PeerWise
University of New Brunswick
Welcome to PeerWise
PeerWise supports you and your peers in the creation, sharing, evaluation and discussion of assessment questions relevant to your studies.
You design the questions
Creating a question requires you to reflect on what you are learning in a course. Explaining the answer to your question in your own words helps to reinforce your understanding. If you teach it, you understand it.
See what everyone thinks
Attempt questions written by your peers, and see how everyone else has answered. Feedback is immediate, you have access to explanations and you can participate in discussions. See what others think is important.
Learn from your peers
Search by quality, difficulty and topic to find questions of interest to you. Follow authors who contribute questions that you like, and request help when you need it. Help your peers, and let them help you.
PeerWise is simple to use - you can access it anywhere and anytime. New to PeerWise? Find out all you need to know.
Welcome to PeerWise for the University of New Brunswick
Already joined? Welcome back...
username:
password:
login »
Forgotten your password? Get a new one
Forgotten your username? Recover it
Like to join? Please register...
Registration is very simple
Follow @peerwise

2A. Create a course. Click Create new course.

2B. Choose a course name. PeerWise recommends that you include the term and semester in the name for easy reference if using PeerWise again in the future.


Course name:
The course name should be fewer than 50 characters
You do not need to include the institution in the name of the course. It is recommended to include term/semester and year in the course name
e.g. CompSci 101 (Term 1, 2010)
e.g. Introduction to Biology (Semester 2, 2010)

2C. Click Preview new course.

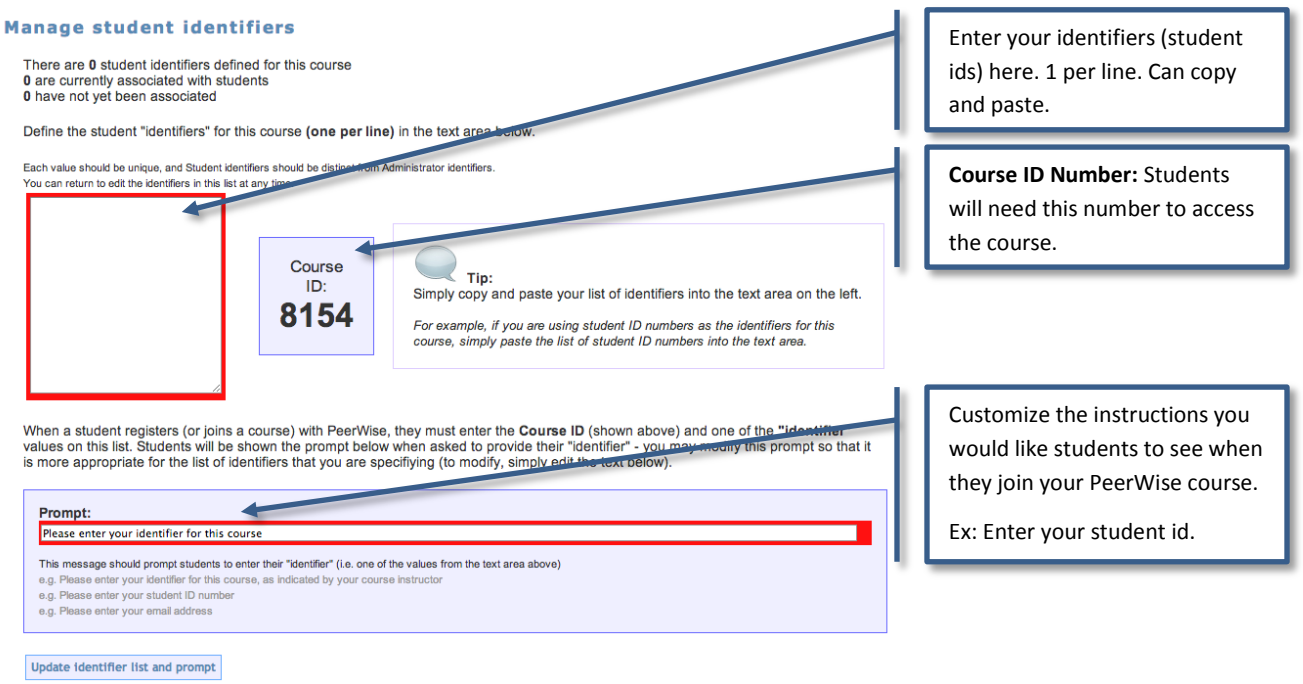

Home | Create new course
Create new course (confirm)
You are about to create the following PeerWise course repository:
Course name: Instructional Tech Lab Demo
Institution: University of New Brunswick
Course creator: emily
Is this correct?
Yes, create this course
No, I would like to change the name of the course
No, take me back to the Home menu

2D. The course name, institution and course creator will be displayed. If everything is correct, click Yes, create this course.

3A. Upload student identifiers.

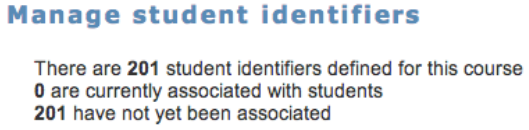
Your courses
Pending courses - there are not yet any student "identifiers" associated with the following courses. Select "Upload identifer list" below to store the "identifiers" you would like students to provide in order to access the course. Students provide this "identifier" information when they register (or join a course) with PeerWise:
Instructional Tech Lab Demo (admin, Course ID = 8154) Upload identifer list
You are not yet a member of any courses.

Your course will be displayed as a pending course, until you setup the identifiers. When a student wishes to access your course on PeerWise, they will first need to provide one of the "student identifier" values that you have associated with the course. This will allow you to track the participation of your students. Students only need to enter this identifier value one time - when they register a new PeerWise account (if they have never used PeerWise before), or when they select "Join course" from the Home menu (if they have used PeerWise before). These identifiers can be absolutely any values at all, provided that they allow you to uniquely identify each student. Student IDs are recommended. To add identifiers. Click Upload identifier list.


Manage student identifiers
There are 0 student identifiers defined for this course
0 are currently associated with students
0 have not yet been associated
Define the student "identifiers" for this course (one per line) in the text area below.
Each value should be unique, and Student identifiers should be distinct from Administrator identifiers.
You can return to edit the identifiers in this list at any time.
Course ID: 8154
Tip:
Simply copy and paste your list of identifiers into the text area on the left.
For example, if you are using student ID numbers as the identifiers for this course, simply paste the list of student ID numbers into the text area.
When a student registers (or joins a course) with PeerWise, they must enter the Course ID (shown above) and one of the "identifier" values on this list. Students will be shown the prompt below when asked to provide their "identifier" - you may modify this prompt so that it is more appropriate for the list of identifiers that you are specifiying (to modify, simply edit the text below).
Prompt:
Please enter your identifier for this course
This message should prompt students to enter their "identifier" (i.e. one of the values from the text area above)
e.g. Please enter your identifier for this course, as indicated by your course instructor
e.g. Please enter your student ID number
e.g. Please enter your email address
Update identifier list and prompt
Enter your identifiers (student ids) here. 1 per line. Can copy and paste.
Course ID Number: Students will need this number to access the course.
Customize the instructions you would like students to see when they join your PeerWise course.
Ex: Enter your student id.

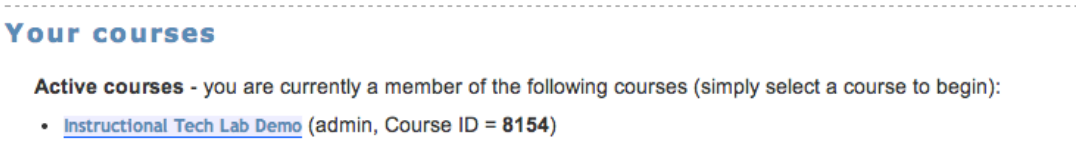
3B. Click Update identifier list and prompt .

3C. Confirmation that the identifiers have been added will be displayed. This should be the same as the number of students in your course.

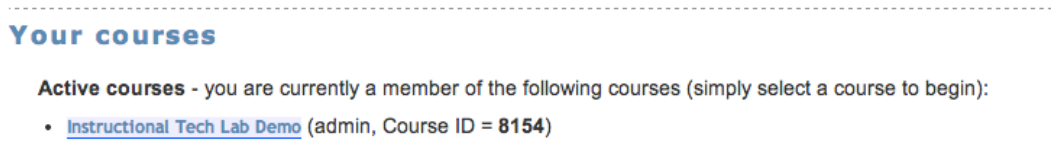

Manage student identifiers
There are 201 student identifiers defined for this course
0 are currently associated with students
201 have not yet been associated

3D. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Home menu".

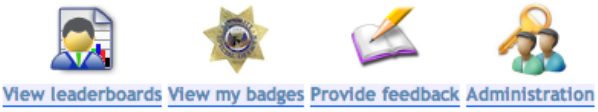
Your course will now be displayed under the heading Active Courses. Note the Course ID that you will need to provide to students.


Your courses
Active courses - you are currently a member of the following courses (simply select a course to begin):
Instructional Tech Lab Demo (admin, Course ID = 8154)

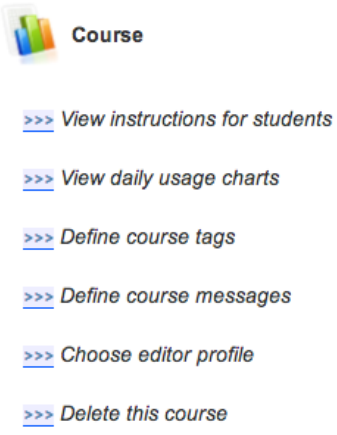
4A. Provide your students with instructions for accessing your PeerWise course. Click your course name.


Your courses
Active courses - you are currently a member of the following courses (simply select a course to begin):
Instructional Tech Lab Demo (admin, Course ID = 8154)

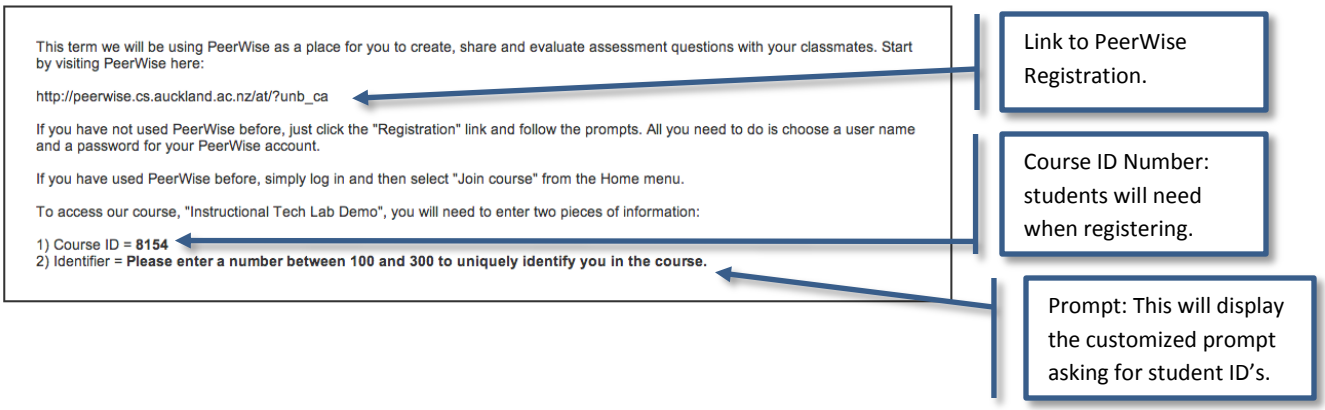
4B. At the bottom of the page you will find links to different areas of PeerWise. Click Administration.



4C. You will see three columns: Students, Questions, and Course. Under Course, click View instructions for students.

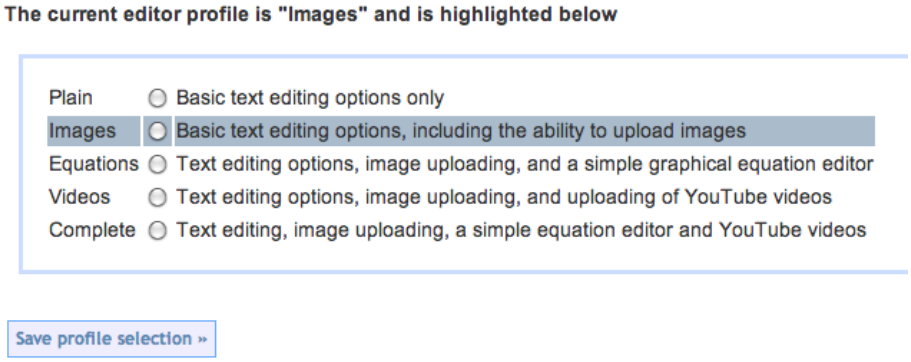


4D. Copy the displayed instructions to a place where all your students can access it (a class email or on Desire2Learn).


This term we will be using PeerWise as a place for you to create, share and evaluate assessment questions with your classmates. Start by visiting PeerWise here:
http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?unb_ca
If you have not used PeerWise before, just click the "Registration" link and follow the prompts. All you need to do is choose a user name and a password for your PeerWise account.
If you have used PeerWise before, simply log in and then select "Join course" from the Home menu.
To access our course, "Instructional Tech Lab Demo", you will need to enter two pieces of information:
1) Course ID = 8154
2) Identifier = Please enter a number between 100 and 300 to uniquely identify you in the course.
Link to PeerWise Registration.
Course ID Number: students will need when registering.
Prompt: This will display the customized prompt asking for student ID's.

4E. Click Back to Administration tab, when you are done.

5A. Customize the question editing pane. Under Courses, click Choose editor Profile.


The current editor profile is "Images" and is highlighted below
Plain Basic text editing options only
Images Basic text editing options, including the ability to upload images
Equations Text editing options, image uploading, and a simple graphical equation editor
Videos Text editing options, image uploading, and uploading of YouTube videos
Complete Text editing, image uploading, a simple equation editor and YouTube videos
Save profile selection »

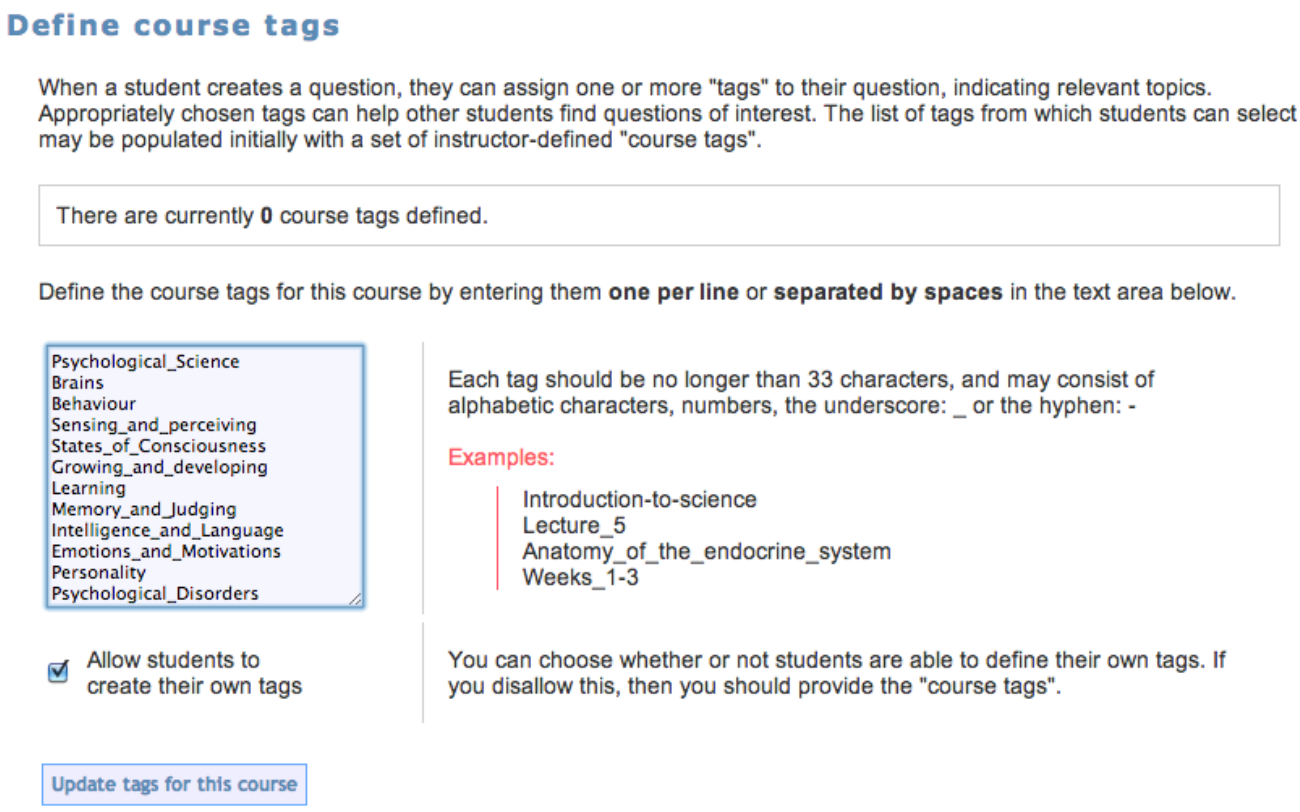
5B. The different editors that are available when students create questions in PeerWise are shown. The default option (highlighted in blue) includes basic editing and the ability to upload images. However, some subject matter may require a graphical equation editor, or the ability to upload videos for a question, or both. Click Complete to allow full functionality for students.

5C. Click Save profile selection.

5D. Click Administration from the breadcrumbs bar at the top of the page.

6A. Create a Question Tag. When students create questions, they can indicate which topics it is relevant to by assigning tags. As the instructor, you can predefine some of the tags that you expect students might want to use. Example: If a course has several units, you could create a tag for each unit name. Under Courses, click Define Course Tags.

6B. Enter one tag per line, without spaces. The example below shows the tags that might be used in an Introductory Psychology course.

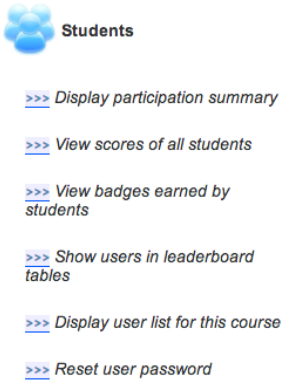

Define course tags
When a student creates a question, they can assign one or more "tags" to their question, indicating relevant topics. Appropriately chosen tags can help other students find questions of interest. The list of tags from which students can select may be populated initially with a set of instructor-defined "course tags".
There are currently 0 course tags defined.
Define the course tags for this course by entering them one per line or separated by spaces in the text area below.
Psychological_Science
Brains
Behaviour
Sensing_and_perceiving
States_of_Consciousness
Growing_and_developing
Learning
Memory_and_Judging
Intelligence_and_Language
Emotions_and_Motivations
Personality
Psychological_Disorders
Each tag should be no longer than 33 characters, and may consist of alphabetic characters, numbers, the underscore: _ or the hyphen: -
Examples:
Introduction-to-science
Lecture_5
Anatomy_of_the_endocrine_system
Weeks_1-3
Allow students to create their own tags
You can choose whether or not students are able to define their own tags. If you disallow this, then you should provide the "course tags".
Update tags for this course

6C. Optional: Restrict students from creating their own tags by unchecking the box: Allow students to create their own tags.

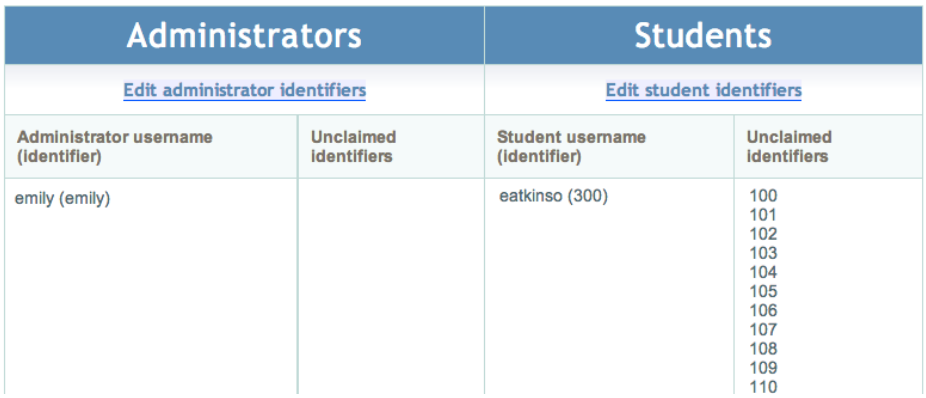
6D. Click Update tags for this course (to save your tags).

6E. Click Administration from the breadcrumbs bar at the top of the page.

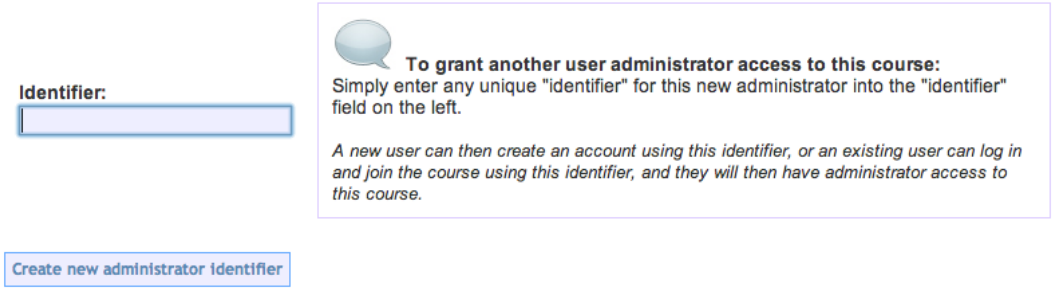
7A. Provide an instructor with administrator access to your course. Make sure you are in the Administration area. Under Students, click Display user list for this course.


Students
>>> Display participation summary
>>> View scores of all students
>>> View badges earned by students
>>> Show users in leaderboard tables
>>> Display user list for this course
>>> Reset user password

7B. Students that have claimed an identifier, as well as current administrators and their identifiers will be displayed. Click Edit administrator identifiers.



7C. Enter the identifier into the box. This should not be the same as a student's identifier.


Identifier:
To grant another user administrator access to this course:
Simply enter any unique "identifier" for this new administrator into the "identifier" field on the left.
A new user can then create an account using this identifier, or an existing user can log in and join the course using this identifier, and they will then have administrator access to this course.
Create new administrator identifier

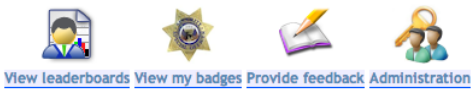
7D. Click Create new administrator identifier.

7E. Provide the instructor with the same instructions you gave the students in your course. However, they will need to enter the identifier that you just created for them, rather than what the students were asked to use (student numbers).

8A. Your course is setup. Students can begin posing and responding to questions using PeerWise.

9A. Moderate your course. There may be too many questions to follow them all. You may just want to track total participation.

9B. Click Administration.



9C. Click Display participation summary.

9D. View the total number of questions, answers and comments by each student.

9E. Click view next to any students name to view the actual questions written by the student.

9F. Click Administration to go back to the Administration tab.

4 QUICK TIPS

Assessment

The PeerWise website suggests motivating your students to use the program by assigning a participation mark between 2-5%. They suggest requiring students to author 1-2 questions and respond to 20 questions. Of course this will depend on your class size. Requiring your students to author too many questions may result in lower quality questions.

Badging

PeerWise has a badging system with three levels of badges basic, standard and elite. Students earn badges for writing questions, responding to questions, commenting on questions, providing feedback, helping to improve answers to questions among other things. Requiring students to acquire a number of badges from each of the three levels, can also be included in a participation mark, but may also be intrinsically motivating to the student.